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PREVIEW OF 1994 GOP U.S. SENATE RACE IN CALIF.

Editor's note: If the CA Republican Party convention in Anaheim last week was any indication of what the upcoming June 1994 Republican Party primary will be like, then color it nasty and expensive --- but mostly expensive. Here's our brief report & analysis...

...So far there are three serious contenders vying for the GOP nomination: former Congressman Bill Dannemeyer of Fullerton; and U.S. Reps. Chris Cox of Orange Co. and Michael Huffington of Santa Barbara. Both Dannemeyer and Huffington have formally announced, while Cox has not...

...Some might argue that Dannemeyer should not be taken seriously, but GOP sources note he's got name ID and is pulling 17% in the early polling. At the CRP convention, Dannemeyer lived up to expectations by blasting *both* Cox and Huffington, but saved most of his harshest comments for Huffington. We'll get into those criticisms another time...

...Meanwhile, both Cox and Huffington are busy putting together their campaign teams. Nothing is totally set in either camp, but sources say former campaign consultant Carlos Rodriguez will come out of retirement to help Huffington. Not signed yet, but being talked to is McNally Temple Associates of Sacto; and it's pretty sure that media consultant Don Ringe, who was with Huffington in 1992, will once again have a role. As for Cox, he has the support of campaign pros Ken Khachigian, Stu Spencer and Arnold Steinberg --- but again, no signed contracts...

...With Cox not officially in the race just yet, the Huffington crowd would dearly love to find a way to get him out. They contend that Cox won't be able to raise the necessary money to compete in the primary, let alone a general with U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D).

That's easy for Huffington to say because he's worth millions. Cox's supporters hit back at the freshman House member saying that a, "Johnny come lately to Calif. who hasn't paid his political dues can't buy the GOP primary by writing a check." That was certainly true in the past, but *checkbook politics* does seem to be more prevalent these days. Stay tuned...

GOV. WILSON AND HIS PROBLEMS WITH #172 & #174.

Editor's note: Here are CALPEEK's observations and analysis of the CA Republican Party convention which concluded Sept. 19th. This was a convention which centered on issues - **not** candidates, and Gov. Pete Wilson was right in the middle of everything...

...Some are calling the latest CRP semi-annual convention The Props. 172 & 174 Convention because those were the two dominant topics of conversation among the 1,500 delegates and guests. On the final day delegates by voice vote decided to **oppose** Pro. 172, the measure strongly backed by Gov. Pete Wilson. This was a direct slap at Wilson, who with AG Dan Lungren and a number of public safety officials, had lobbied delegates all weekend long. Prop. 172 calls for the extension of the 1/2 cent sales tax, with the funds earmarked for public safety purposes. While GOP delegates are very supportive of DAs and cops, they are even *more strongly opposed* to taxes of any kind. The anti-172 resolution which was approved, was orchestrated by Wilson-foe Jim Dignan, the immediate past chair of the CA Republican Party. Dignan and Wilson don't like each other and this was another indication that Dignan would **not** be too upset if Wilson were challenged in the primary by a credible GOP candidate. So far, no takers...

...Now for #174. The school voucher initiative really dominated the convention. Pro and con sides were

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both there, but it was more than obvious that CRP delegates were **very much in favor** of the school voucher initiative. What's not clear at this point is where Gov. Wilson stands. CDP Chair Bill Press showed up at the CRP gathering to needle Wilson for sitting on the fence for more than 120 days after calling the special. Indeed, YES on 174 campaign consultant Ken Khachigian would very much like to have the governor's support, because it might help the YES side with funding --- which is falling further behind to the NO on 174 effort, already on radio and just now starting a 1st flight of statewide TV. FYI: the latest L.A. Times poll shows #174 trailing by a narrowing margin of 39% YES to 45% NO...

...Wilson is really caught between a rock and a hard place on #174. Hardline conservatives, who still don't trust or like him, would be infuriated if he came out in opposition, while opponents, including the powerful CA Teachers Assn., would consider his support for 174 as a declaration of war and would be prepared to spend millions to knock him off in 1994. Although sources close to the governor say he'll take a stand, our bet is that if he does, it will be so late in the campaign that it will have no impact either way...

...FYI: On the good news front for Wilson, his job performance numbers were up from 30% to 37% in the latest L.A. Times survey. In one-on-one matches with potential Demo challengers State Treasurer Kathleen Brown and Insurance Comm. John Garamendi, Wilson still trails, but the gap is starting to narrow. And CALPEEK sources, including Demos, are now beginning to voice doubts that Brown could defeat Wilson in 1994. And while Brown currently leads Garamendi in pre-primary polls, Brown doesn't have a lock on the nomination. Stay tuned...

40th S.D. SPECIAL: SURPRISE DEMO PARTY ENTRY.

Six candidates have qualified in this Nov. 2nd special to replace retired State Sen. Wadie Deddeh (D-Chula Vista). On the GOP side, the qualified candidates are Joe Ghougassian, a former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar in the Persian Gulf; GOP activist Muriel Watson; and Daniel Clark. On the Demo side, the frontrunner is Assemblyman Steve Peace (Chula Vista). His two challengers are John Warren, a black community newspaper publisher; and --- here's the surprise --- Lettie Rodgers, a longtime field rep for Deddeh...

...CALPEEK sources say no one in Deddeh's office (nor the ex-lawmaker) had the slightest idea that Rodgers was planning to run until she took out papers about 10 days ago. She's been with Deddeh's office for 13 years, but isn't all that well known and has no funding base. Sources suspect that Rodgers may be in the race because she's **pro-school vouchers** --- YES on 174. Peace is NO on 174. Rodgers, who is black, may hurt Warren more than Peace. Rodgers remains on State payroll, but can't do anything political during office hours. If CALPEEK sources are correct about the reasons why Rodgers got into this special, then this election takes on extra importance. And there are some questions that need to be asked. For example, who talked Rodgers into running? Stay tuned...

11th S.D. SPECIAL: CAMPBELL STILL THE FAVORITE.

Only one surprise when filing closed in this Nov. 2nd special election to replace retired State Sen. Becky Morgan (R-Los Altos Hills). Demo community college trustee Phil Stokes will have to go to court if his name is to be on the ballot. Stokes came up a few signatures short on his petitions. Most superior court judges allow candidates to be on the ballot if they've made the effort to collect the required signatures under the doctrine of substantial compliance...

...On the GOP side, former Congressman Tom Campbell of Palo Alto is the frontrunner. His two rivals are Jack Hickey, who is running as a **pro-voucher** candidate, and Virgil McVicker, a conservative CPA who has won an endorsement from Bruce Herschensohn. McVicker would appear to be Campbell's main competition on the GOP side, but the CPA has yet to raise the kind of money necessary to wage a credible campaign. McVicker is pro-voucher, pro-life and anti-NAFTA --- the exact opposite of Campbell on the key issues. McVicker is running as a "Reagan Republican." The contest might become exciting if there were some sign of a heavy independent expenditure campaign on McVicker's behalf...

...On the Demo side, business writer/journalist Hal Plotkin is the frontrunner, with endorsements from many of the area's Demo lawmakers (Alquist, Sher, Vasconcellos, Speier, Santa Clara County Sup. Rod Diridon and San Mateo Co. Sup. Ted Lempert). Plotkin has hired S.F.-based Staton/Hughes as consultants, with Bill Berry as campaign mgr. Community

college trustee Amal Winter also qualified. John Peterson is on the ballot as the Libertarian Party candidate and Nancy Jewell Cross has qualified as an independent. Most sources continue to feel that Campbell looks like a winner. Stay tuned...

AG DAN LUNGREN SWIMS IN TROUBLED WATERS.

Editor's note: Although there is little chance that CA's Attorney General Dan Lungren(R) will face any major challenge in the June 1994 GOP primary, that doesn't mean all is well in Republican waters. Some think Lungren may soon have "The Bush Problem" --- letting his base of support erode. Here's our brief report...

...Lungren's problems with hardline conservatives are on two basic fronts: ***guns & taxes***. He also may be in trouble with hardliners over his refusal to support reform of the State's now expired asset forfeiture law, but that's a complex issue not suited for this story...

.....**Guns first.** Pro gun groups are seeing red over Lungren's efforts to improve/save/reform the Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Ban, which is now State law. The problem is that this law is so badly flawed that it is almost useless because it's nearly impossible to ban such weapons by brand name. Lungren is also in hot water over the clip bill, SB 1128 by Sen. David Roberti(D). Although it gets complicated, Lungren at first supported SB 1128, but then withdrew his support after Roberti took numerous amendments. One amendment by Demo Assemblywoman Valerie Brown caused Lungren's DOJ staff to recommend that gun dealers issue DROS (dealer record of sales) slips to all clip buyers. Problem is that it costs about \$14 to process a DROS slip for a clip that can be as cheap as \$5. Bottomline: Roberti's SB 1128 is now a 2-year bill, but some of the provisions important to the NRA & CA Rifle & Pistol Assn., as well as to duck hunters, retail gun dealers and law enforcement, were put into SB 180 (Sen. Teresa Hughes) and is now on Gov. Wilson's desk...

...**Taxes.** While the gun stuff can be mysterious to rank and file voters, taxes are a different matter. Because of their support for Prop. 172 this coming November, both Gov. Wilson and Lungren are being bashed by hardline conservatives. Conservatives see opposition to taxes as a bread & butter issue for Republicans and anyone who strays off the reservation on this issue is in

deep trouble. While Lungren may find himself at odds with many Republican elected leaders, better than public safety and rank & file law enforcement officials who are backing 172. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● Gunning for Tony in '94 - Demo U.S. Rep.

Anthony Beilenson will probably end up facing some very stiff competition next year. Already lining up to challenge the veteran lawmaker in the 24th C.D. are attorney/journalist/former DOD analysts Richard Sybert, who now works as director for the Governor's Office of Planning & Research; and businessman John Morris. Sybert has retained McNally Temple Assoc., while Morris will use consultant Ron Smith. Also running are Bob Hammer and former Dannemeyer staff Mark Benhard. Sybert has already banked about \$300,000, while Morris is expected to write a check for "whatever it takes." More *checkbook politics*...

● **S.F. City Attorney Renne vs. Eisenberg** - Incumbent S.F. City Attorney Louise Renne has retained the campaign firm of Staton/Hughes to help in her Nov. 2nd reelection bid. She faces attorney/Demo Party activist Neil Eisenberg, who has hired consultant Steve Kline...

● **Latest Rumor for BOE** - On Gov. Pete Wilson's short list for the No. Calif. Board of Equalization seat which has been vacant for more than a year is State Sen. Robert Presley(D-Riverside). Yes, that's correct. Presley owns property in No. Calif. and because his 36th S.D. is now heavily GOP in registration, this would make political sense for him. And it gives the Republicans a good shot at picking up a Demo senate seat. Who would run for Presley's seat? GOP Assemblyman Ray Haynes or perhaps Riverside Sheriff Cois Byrd, who is retiring in 1994...

SPEAKER BROWN TO ADDRESS VICA OCT. 1st.

Demo Assembly Speaker Willie Brown will discuss "The Legislative Impact on Education, Immigration and the Economic Recovery," at a special Valley Industry and Commerce Assn.(VICA) luncheon, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1 at the Warner Center Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills. For info (818)888-2228...

RUNOFFS SET IN 3 SAN DIEGO COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

Incumbent San Diego Councilwoman Judy McCarty easily won reelection over two opponents in the Sept. 21 council election, getting 57% of the vote. But there will be Nov. 2nd runoff in the 1st, 3rd and 5th Districts. 8th District Councilman Juan Vargas won reelection when no one filed against him...

...In the 1st District, which will probably be the hottest contest of the three runoffs, Harry Mathis edged out former mayoral candidate Peter Navarro, 43% to 42%, with Dee Rich in 3rd with 15%. Rich is now one of the most sought after third place finishers in San Diego City election history. In the 3rd District, the runoff will be between first place finisher Chris Kehoe and community college trustee Evonne Schulze. And in the 5th District the runoff will be between first place finisher Barbara Warden and community college trustee Fred Colby. Stay tuned...

MCCARLEY, NIELSEN & JAMES AT WIPA LUNCHEON.

Three of L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan's top staffers, COS Bill McCarley, Dep. Mayor Jadine Nielsen and Dep. Mayor Raye Franklin James, will be the guest speakers at Women In Public Affairs' Oct. 5 luncheon, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Tower Restaurant, L.A. For info, Sharon Letts at (213)775-3486...

PAT BROWN INSTITUTE AWARDS DINNER OCT. 13th.

The 13th Annual Awards Dinner sponsored by the Pat Brown Institute will honor former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, former County Federation of Labor exec. sec. Bill Robertson, former L.A. Deputy Mayor Linda Griego and Linda Wong, director of RLA. Reception 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30 p.m., Oct. 13, Crystal Ballroom, Biltmore Hotel, L.A. For info (213)888-6944...

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON TARGET.

CALPEEK's 1993-94 Directory of Campaign Consultants is holding to its timetable and should be ready by late October --- if all goes well. Most of the key consultants have finally submitted their questionnaires (or we called them) and advertising sales continue at a good pace. If you'd still like to advertise in the Directory, we've got space. Please contact Jill Barad & Associates at (818)906-0960 for advertising information. Our advertising deadline is Sept. 30th, but that's *soft*. We'll keep you informed as to when the Directory goes on sale. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Sacto-based McNally Temple Associates has been hired by the Matt Fong for State Treasurer campaign to create media and to be strategic planners...

- CALPEEK sources report that Doak, Shrum & Associates have been hired as media consultants for the expected Demo gubernatorial campaign of Insurance Comm. John Garamendi...

- Beth A. Miller has joined Gov. Pete Wilson's staff as a deputy director of communications & press relations...

- PR/PA consultant Karen Kukurin has been named vp of communications for the L.A.-based Merchants & Manufacturers Assn...

- A sad note: Eileen Anderson, a perennial candidate for various State and L.A. City offices, has died of cancer. She was 65. Anderson was known as the "Singing Candidate." R.I.P...

TO CALPEEK SUBSCRIBERS: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

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CALPEEK'S 1993 ELECTION CALENDAR

Editor's note: Here's a short election calendar to help you keep track of all the specials, runoffs and other elections...

- **Nov. 2** - Statewide Special Election: Props. 168 to 174; San Francisco City Attorney & Treasurer election; San Diego council runoffs; 4th S.D. & 27th A.D. special runoff elections; and 11th & 40th S.D. special primaries; and 64 muni elections around the State...

- **Dec. 28** - 11th S.D. & 40th S.D. special runoffs (if necessary)...